At Home Photo Album
Version 1.0
by At Home Software, ©1997

Contents

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To order this "shareware" see "How to Order" from the help menu in this software or visit At Home Software online at www.athome-software.com.

2. About At Home Photo Album

At Home Photo Album is a great application to store and categorize mounds of photos that we all have in boxes all over our homes. Photos can be scanned into At Home Photo Album with the use of any TWAIN compliant scanning device or video capture device. Photos can be imported from a number of popular graphic file formats and can also be exported to these file formats as well. Pictures may also be stored in the At Home Photo Album in a number of formats that allow you to balance picture quality with file size. Photos can be viewed via the main screen, full screen or with the slide show screen. The rest of this document will explain in greater detail the use of At Home Photo Album.

3. Main Screen

The main screen in At Home Photo Album consists of a main frame that the photos will appear in, menus, a top button bar, a side panel and buttons and a lower panel.

Main Frame

> The main frame is the location that all scanned or imported photos/graphics will be displayed. The displayed picture may be displayed full screen at anytime, by double-clicking on the picture.

Menus

> The following describes the function of each of the menu items:

> **File|Open from File** - This item will open a standard file|open dialog box that will allow you to choose a graphic file to import into your photo album. When the file is chosen, Photo Album will ask you to enter a title and category for the new picture. (Note: in the Evaluation version, only 10 photos may be stored at any one time).

> **File|Save to File** - This item is similar to the previous item, except this allows you to save the current picture to a graphic file format. Many popular graphics file formats are supported. (Note: this feature is not supported in the Evaluation version).

> **File|Acquire** - This item allows you to acquire a picture from you TWAIN compliant scanning device. Photo Album will launch your scanner's software and once the picture is acquired, it will be imported into your photo album. Once again, Photo Album will ask you for a title and category for the new photo. (Note: in the Evaluation version, only 10 photos may be stored at any one time).

> **File|Set Twain Device** - This item allows you to choose which TWAIN compliant device you wish to use in you photo album. This is only necessary if you have more than one twain device connected to your computer.

File|Slide Show - This item will launch the slide show application. You will first be asked which category you would like to view in the slide show. Then the slide show will launch. See "Slide Show" later in this document for further information about this section. (Note: in the Evaluation Edition, the category "General" will automatically be selected for you. This is the only category that is available for the Slide Show in the evaluation edition).

File|Exit - This item will close the At Home Photo Album application.

Edit|Flip - This item will flip your photo in the horizontal plane. The resulting photo will be a mirror image of the original.

Edit|Rotate - This item will rotate your photo 180°.

(NOTE: the functions under the Edit menu are not available in the evaluation edition).

Categories|Add New - This item allows you to add a new category to your photo album.

Categories|Edit Categories - This item will allow you to change the category names or delete a category.

(NOTE: the functions under the Categories menu are not available in the evaluation edition).

Help|About - This item opens the "about" form. This form will give you information regarding to the specific version of At Home Photo Album that you are using.

Help|Enter Registration Code - This item allows you to enter your registration information that was received from At Home Software. Once entered, the evaluation edition will be transformed into the registered version.

Help|How to Order - This item opens the "How to Order" form that will give you information about registering At Home Photo Album.

Help|Print Order Form - This item will open the "Print Order Form" form. Enter your personal order information into this form and print the form to register At Home Photo Album by mail.

Help|What do I get if I order? - This item will launch a form that explains the added feature that will be unlocked when a registration code is entered.

4. Toolbar/Buttons/Other controls

The main screen of At Home Photo Album offers a toolbar and assorted buttons for one-click access to areas of the application. The following will explain the use of these buttons. Where the button corresponds directly to a menu item, the menu item will be noted. For these buttons, see the menu description above.

Toolbar - The At Home Photo album toolbar appears directly below the menu at the top of the screen. Each button will be explained below as they appear on your screen from left to right.

Scan New Picture - Same as File|Acquire.

Select Twain Device - Same as File|Set Twain Device

Open Picture from File - Same as File|Open from File

Save Picture to File - Same as File|Save to File

Flip Picture - Same as Edit|Flip

Rotate Picture - Same as Edit|Rotate

Zoom In - This button will enlarge the current photo. In order to use this button, the photo must be "stretched" or "scaled". See the description of these buttons below

Zoom Out - This button will shrink the current photo (zoom out) from a currently zoomed-in photo. In order to use this button, the photo must be "stretched" or "scaled." See the description of these buttons below. (Note: this button is not available in the evaluation edition).

Stretch - This button will stretch the photo to fill the entire framed area.

Scale - This button will stretch the photo to fill the framed area while maintaining the aspect ratio of the original photo. The photo will be expanded to fill the framed area either in the vertical or horizontal plane depending on the aspect ration of the photo.

Normal - This button will set the photo to its original size and place its upper left corner in the upper left corner of the frame.

Center Picture - This button will center the photo in the frame. This is only active when the photo is at its original size.

Change Frame - This button will change the picture frame to the next frame in the frame database. The evaluation version only allows 3 frame views. Registration unlocks the rest of the frames in the package.

Slide Show - Same as File|Slide Show.

First Picture - This button will display the first picture in your photo album.

Previous Picture - This button will display the previous picture in the photo album.

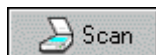**Next Picture** - This button will display the next picture in the photo album.

Last Picture - This button will display the last picture in the photo album.

Delete Picture - This button will remove the current picture from your photo album.

Other buttons - There are other buttons that appear on the At Home Photo Album main screen. These will be discussed here.

Right Panel - the panel that appears on the right side of the screen.

Scan - Same as File|Acquire.

Memo - Displays the memo box on the screen. This allows you to enter a description for each photo in your photo album. Once the memo is displayed, clicking the button again will turn the memo box off and save your description.

Order - Same as Help|Print Order Form. (Note: this button will no longer appear after the application has been registered).

Close - Closes At Home Photo Album. Same as File|Exit.

Bottom Panel - The panel that appears at the bottom of the screen.

Update Title - This button will update the title of the current photo if you have made a change to it. This will keep the Title Search function in synch with the actual titles. If you do not click this button after changing a title, the original title will appear in the title search control that is discussed below.

Title - Displays the title of the current photo.

Title Search - By clicking on the arrow to the right of the title, you can display a list of all of the titles in your photo album. Click on the title to display that photo in the frame.

Category - Displays the category of the current photo. By clicking on the arrow to the right of the category you can change the category of the photo.

Progress bar - this control gives you a visual representation of the progress of the currently loading photo.

File Size - Just above the progress bar is a number. This number represents the file size of the current photo in bytes.

5. Slide Show

The following will explain the use of the slide show function of At Home Photo Album. The slide show allows you to view the photos in a selected category while giving you more screen area for the photos.

Controls

All of the controls in the slide show are on the bottom panel. This allows for more space for the actual photos. The title of the photo will appear in the center of this panel. All of the other controls on this panel are identical in function to those on the main screen.

6. Scanning

When you select any of the methods previously discussed to scan a photo into At Home Photo Album, your scanner software will be launched. See your scanner documentation on the use of this software. Once this software has scanned the photo, it will be imported into At Home Photo Album. To control the quality of the photo stored after the scan, you must select one of the four options on the right panel (just above the scan button). The actual definition of these options will be discussed below in "File Storage Considerations."

7. File Storage Considerations

At Home Photo Album gives you four options with regard to photo quality: Excellent, Good, Not Bad, and OK. As you proceed down the list (from excellent to ok). The quality of the stored photo will decrease as will the size of the file stored and therefore the amount of your hard disk that is used to store your photo album.

The following describes the definition of each of these options.

Excellent - this option will store the file as a TIFF format. This format uses virtually no compression and therefore results in a fairly large file size.

Good - this option will store the file as a JPEG format using minimum compression. This option uses some compression, but results in a fairly high quality image. The results in file size will depend on the particular scan; however, the size decrease will almost always be significant over the Excellent option.

Not Bad - this option will store the file as a GIF format. This format uses only 256 colors, which results in a smaller file size. Depending on the photo, the difference is sometimes not noticeable.

Ok - this option will store the file as a JPEG format using a higher degree of compression. This will result in a significantly smaller file size, but (depending on the photo) could result in significantly degraded quality as well.

The best choice for any one photo will depend upon that photo. Obviously, the goal is to get the smallest possible file size while preserving image quality. How good that image quality must be can only be determined by each individual user.

8. Ordering At Home Photo Album

To register At Home Photo Album, you can use any of the following options:

1) Use the "Print Order Form" methods discussed earlier in this document to enter and print registration information. Ensure that all areas are completed. Follow the payment instructions on this form and mail to the address shown on the form.
2) Send a letter indicating that you wish to register At Home Photo Album. Include your name, address, and Email Address. Mail this letter with a check or money order for $15.95 payable to:
   At Home Software
   P.O. Box 121
   Marlton, NJ 08053
   USA
   All payments must be via check or money order in US dollars drawn to a US bank or via International Postal Money Order in US dollars.
3) Visit At Home Software online at www.athome-software.com for other ways to register At Home Photo Album.

9. Distribution of At Home Photo Album

If the evaluation version of At Home Photo Album is distributed without user names or registration codes, it may be freely distributed by any and all means available. The user names and registration codes may not be distributed by any means whatsoever, and distribution of user names or registration codes is a violation of United States and International Law.

For information regarding distributing registered versions of this software, contact At Home Software at sales@athome-software.com.

10. Support of At Home Photo Album

Support for At Home Photo Album is accomplished either via Email at support@athome-software.com or via our web site at www.athome-software.com.